

Oct. 28, 2011

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Good news: ridership and fare revenue up

I am happy to report that for the month of September 2011 total ridership was up by nearly 5 percent, passenger ridership was up by nearly 7 percent, and vehicle ridership was up 2.5 percent over September 2010. Furthermore, this was our best summer season since 2007! The system hosted over 7 million riders from July to September, which was up 2.2 percent from the same period last year. In addition, fare revenue for the same timeframe exceeded the forecast by \$1.25 million. This is great news for the ferry system!

Roundtable recap: How will we pay for our ferry system?

I was invited to be a panelist at a roundtable hosted by Bob Royer of Gallatin Public Affairs this morning. I was joined by Rep. Judy Clibborn, ferry rider and lobbyist Ian MacGowan, and Discovery Institute Policy Director Bruce Agnew in a discussion about the future of the ferry system and how to provide necessary funding. We discussed the current financial state of the ferry system and the possible paths forward. I appreciated everyone who took the time to attend, and I was especially glad to see some ferry customers in the audience!

Bainbridge Island/Seattle: construction notification

Starting on Monday, October 31, WSF will be replacing the decking on the overhead passenger loading structure to slip #3 at Colman dock (Seattle Terminal). Therefore, Bainbridge Island vessels will load and off-load using slip #2 for approximately thirty days. No service impacts are anticipated.

Colman Dock (Seattle Terminal): sidewalk closure

The pedestrian sidewalk on the west side of Alaskan Way, between Columbia and Yesler Streets, will be closed beginning Monday, October 31 or Tuesday, November 1, 2011 depending on final construction schedules. It will remain closed until the end of November 2011 for electrical work. Please use the walkway on the east side of the street. For more information on the planned improvements, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr519/seattleelectrical/

Kingston/Edmonds: railroad construction

Starting on Monday, Burlington Northern will be repairing railroad tracks near the Edmonds Terminal. Drivers should proceed cautiously while exiting the terminal as frequent roadway reconfigurations are expected during construction. Main Street near the Edmonds Terminal will be closed from 6 p.m. Friday, November 18, until 7 a.m. Saturday, November 19, and again from 6 p.m. Saturday, November 19, until 7 a.m. Sunday, November 20. During this closure, ferry traffic will be rerouted using Railroad Avenue.

Vehicles over 50 feet in length cannot load or offload during the Main Street closure. Customers can expect delays. Pedestrians should look for special access during this closure. Also, Brackets Landing Park, north of the ferry dock, will be closed to vehicles from October 27 to November 23. Work is expected to conclude on November. 22.

Meeting with Kitsap County Commissioner

I met with Commissioner Rob Gelder on Tuesday afternoon to discuss ferry issues in his district of north Kitsap County. It was our first opportunity to meet since his recent appointment. I look forward to working with Commissioner Gelder.

Briefing to Federal Way Kiwanis

I met with the Federal Way Kiwanis on Wednesday to provide an update on the ferry system. I appreciated the opportunity to present and answer questions.

Updated fall community meetings schedule

Please mark your calendar for our upcoming community meetings. We will be discussing the Governor's Connecting Washington task force, new vessels, the fare media study, liquefied natural gas, and community-specific issues. Materials will be posted at

www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/commuterupdates/pub_meetings.htm . Scheduled meetings are as follows:

- **Bremerton** - Monday, November 14 (1-1:30 p.m. at the Bremerton Rotary Meeting at the Kitsap Conference Center)
- ***New* Vashon/Southworth/Fauntleroy** – Tuesday, November 15 (6:30-8 p.m. at McMurray Middle School, Vashon Island)
- **Whidbey Island** - Tuesday, November 29 (6:30-8 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland)
- **San Juan Island/Anacortes** - Thursday, December 1 (5:30-7 p.m. at the San Juan County Council Chambers in Friday Harbor & live streaming online)
- **Port Townsend** - Monday, December 5 (12-1 p.m. at the Jefferson County Chamber Meeting, Elks Lodge, Port Townsend)
- **Bainbridge Island** - Tuesday, December 6 (6:30-8 p.m. at Bainbridge Commons)
- **Kingston** - Thursday, December 8 (6:30-8 p.m. at the Kingston Community Center)

Quick thinking by terminal employee Don White

I received the following email from Kingston Terminal Supervisor Dale Kramer commending the actions of terminal employee Don White. Way to go Don!

The quick thinking and action by one of our terminal employees, Don White, kept a minor fire in the adjacent port of Kingston from becoming a major event. He noticed smoke coming from one of the commercial fishing vessels moored along with several other boats, and grabbed a couple of fire extinguishers from our facility and ran to the dock next door to help the boat owner who had no extinguisher put the fire out. The boat owner suffered several burns, but the fire was kept from spreading, and was in fact out when the Fire Department arrived because of Don's actions. I applauded Don for his quick thinking and his willingness to get involved, and wanted you to be aware of his actions.

Next Week:

- New vessel update
- Central Sound tour with legislator
- Vehicle reservations planning update

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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